

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) An umbrella apparatus comprising:

a pole portion adapted to be supported by a support structure, so as to remain in an outdoor location;

~~a canopy~~ an umbrella portion hingedly coupled to the pole portion, the umbrella portion having a plurality of rib members, the umbrella portion being operable between an opened position and a closed position;

a rechargeable electrical power system for providing electrical power to the umbrella apparatus; and

~~a solar energy system having a solar collector disposed attached to the top of the pole portion above the canopy~~ umbrella portion, the solar energy system being adapted to collect solar energy and convert the solar energy into electrical energy, the solar energy system being conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system, such that the solar energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the rechargeable electrical power system; and

a lighting system having a plurality of light emitting diodes conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system via a conductor and being powered by the rechargeable electrical power system without a need for connection to an AC power outlet, at least one of the light emitting diodes being carried by the umbrella portion and positioned so as to illuminate the area beneath the umbrella portion, and at least a portion of the conductor being carried by at least one of the rib members of the plurality of rib members;

wherein the solar collector ~~energy system~~ is configured ~~to remain in a fixed~~

~~position relative to the pole portion when so that the degree of exposure of the solar collector remains the same regardless of whether the canopy umbrella portion is operated between an in the opened position and a or in the closed position; and~~

wherein the umbrella apparatus is adapted to remain in the outdoor location for recharging the rechargeable electrical power system during daylight hours, regardless of whether the umbrella portion is in the opened position or the closed position, and can remain in the outdoor location after daylight hours.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the rechargeable electrical power system and the solar energy system are both carried by a single housing releasably mounted on the pole portion above the ~~canopy~~ umbrella portion.

23. **(Currently Amended)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the solar energy system is carried by a first housing mounted on the top of the pole portion above the ~~canopy~~ umbrella portion and the rechargeable electrical power system is carried by a second housing located below the ~~canopy~~ umbrella portion.

24. **(Original)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:
an electrical charging system for recharging the rechargeable electrical power system, the electrical charging system being adapted to receive power from an AC power outlet.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

a removable ~~base support~~ structure portion adapted to receive the pole portion and support the umbrella apparatus ~~in an upright position~~ while the umbrella apparatus is in the outdoor location.

26. **(Cancelled).**

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Cancelled).

30. **(Currently Amended)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the solar energy system is conductively coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system by a releasable plug, such that the solar collector is removable from the umbrella apparatus ~~energy collected and converted into electrical energy recharges the rechargeable electrical power system when the solar energy system is plugged into the rechargeable electrical power system.~~

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Cancelled).

33. **(Currently Amended)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the ~~canopy~~ umbrella portion further comprises:

a collapsible ~~cover~~ canopy;

wherein the lighting system is coupled to the collapsible canopy so as to illuminate the area beneath the umbrella portion ~~a plurality of rib members for supporting the collapsible cover; and~~

~~a lighting system carried by the collapsible cover, the lighting system being conductively coupled to and powered by the rechargeable electrical power system.~~

34. **(Currently Amended)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the ~~canopy~~ umbrella portion further comprises:

a collapsible ~~cover~~ canopy;

~~a plurality of rib members for supporting the collapsible cover;~~

a hub member that is movable along the pole portion; and

a strut hingedly connected between the hub member and each rib member; and
wherein at least one of the light emitting diodes of the a lighting system is carried
by at least one of the struts, ~~the lighting system being conductively coupled to and~~
~~powered by the rechargeable electrical power system.~~

35-69. **(Cancelled).**

70. **(New)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the solar energy system is releasably coupled to the rechargeable electrical power system.

71. **(New)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:
a top cap for hingedly connecting the umbrella portion to the pole portion;
wherein the rechargeable electrical power system is releasably coupled to the top cap.

72. **(New)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the solar energy system and the rechargeable electrical power system are disposed in separate housings.

73. **(New)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein each rib member is tubular in shape and configured to allow the light from the light emitting diodes to shine beneath the umbrella portion.

74. **(New)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, wherein at least some of the light emitting diodes move with articulation of the umbrella portion.

75. **(New)** The umbrella apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:
a recessed channel in each rib member;
wherein at least a portion of the conductor is disposed within the recessed channel.